

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application with no claim amendments being filed by this response.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended in the telephone interview held on April 22, 2008. During this conversation, it was discussed that the European Patent Application No. EP-1128673 reference was incorrectly cited as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that as this reference is not valid prior art, the rejections of claims 1-8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over AAPA in view of EP-1389872 in further view of Han and AAPA in view of EP-1389872 is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) (European Patent Application No. EP-1128673) in view of Li (European Patent Application No. EP-1389872), hereinafter "EP-1389872," in further view of Han (U.S. Patent No. 6,175,387).

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference of European Patent Application No. EP-1389872 is not valid prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103 or 35 U.S.C. 102. EP-1389872 was filed in the European Patent Office on August 16, 2002 and was published on February 18, 2004. The present claimed invention was filed January 18, 2005 and claims priority from European Patent Application No. 02291810.6 filed on July 17, 2002. As the priority filing date of the present application predates both the filing and publication dates of EP-1389872, EP-1389872 is not valid prior art under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103. As EP-1389872 is not valid prior art, the rejection of claims 1-8 over AAPA in view of EP-1389872 in further view of Han is not valid. In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) (European Patent Application No. EP-1128673) in view of Li (European Patent Application No. EP-1389872), hereinafter "EP-1389872."

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited reference of European Patent Application No. EP-1389872 is not valid prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103 or 35 U.S.C. 102. EP-1389872 was filed in the European Patent Office on August 16, 2002 and was published on February 18, 2004. The present claimed invention was filed January 18, 2005 and claims priority from European Patent Application No. 02291810.6 filed on July 17, 2002. As the priority filing date of the present application predates both the filing and publication dates of EP-1389872, EP-1389872 is not valid prior art under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103. As EP-1389872 is not valid prior art, the rejection of claim 9 over AAPA in view of EP-1389872 is not valid. In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Additionally, Applicants submit that EP-1389872 was not cited as a reference on Form PTO-892 submitted by the Examiner or on Form PTO-1449 submitted by Applicant. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner properly cite this reference as being considered.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections, it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at the phone number below, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No other fee is believed due. However, if an additional fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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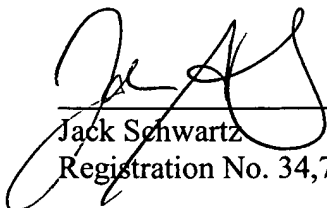
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I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

Date April 24, 2008



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